

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-13

ACDA-19 NASA-04 SCI-06 COME-00 OTPE-00 MC-02 EB-11

OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /148 W
----- 097423

R 161608Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6289

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, GW

SUBJECT: SPACELAB - JULY 12 ESC MEETING

REF: A. BRUSSELS 3931; B. PARIS 19308; C. STATE 136181;
D. PARIS 19275; E. BONN 8989

1. SUMMARY. FRG TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY OFFICIAL INFORMED
EMBASSY THAT JULY 12 ESC MINISTERIAL MEETING RESULTED
IN POSTPONEMENT NOT RPT NOT FAILURE. HIS REPORT
CONFIRMS SUBSTANCE REFS A AND B. FRG REMAINS OPTIMISTIC
ABOUT SPACELAB PROJECT ALTHOUGH ROLE OF FRENCH AND
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FUTURE OF L3S ARE NOT RPT NOT CLEAR. FRG TECHNOLOGY

MINISTER EHMKE TOLD AMBASSADOR FRENCH ALLEGATIONS THAT AEROSAT SITUATION PROVES US WOULD BE UNRELIABLE PARTNER IN SPACE COOPERATION HAD ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING.

2. ACCORDING TO FRG TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY OFFICIAL, FRG TECHNOLOGY MINISTER EHMKE MET WITH UK MINISTER HESELTINE FOR BREAKFAST ON JULY 12. REPORTEDLY, HESELTINE TOLD EHMKE THAT UK WOULD NOT RPT NOT CONTRIBUTE TO FRENCH L3S PROJECT "EVEN IF THEY HAD THE MONEY". IT WAS THEN CLEAR TO GERMANS THAT JULY 12 ESC MEETING COULD NOT RPT NOT SUCCEED. DURING MEETING MOST STATEMENTS WERE NEGATIVE OR NON-COMMITTAL ABOUT CONTRIBUTIONS TO L3S PROJECT. NEW ITALIAN GOVERNMENT COULD NOT RPT NOT TAKE FIRM POSITION. FRENCH SCIENCE MINISTER CHARBONNEL FIRMLY LINKED ALL QUESTIONS OF EUROPEAN SPACE POLICY TOGETHER AS ONE PACKAGE. CONVERSATIONS AMONG MINISTERS DURING LUNCHEON RECESS FAILED TO RESOLVE PROBLEM AND CHAIRMAN ADJOURNED MEETING UNTIL JULY 31.

3. FRG TECHNOLOGY MINISTER EHMKE TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR ON JULY 13 ASKING ABOUT STATUS OF AEROSAT PROGRAM. HE REPORTED FRENCH HAD SAID AT ESC MINISTERIAL THAT AEROSAT WAS AGAIN IN DOUBT, THIS TIME BECAUSE OF INDUSTRY OPPOSITION, AND THAT US COULD NOT BE TRUSTED BUT WOULD BE AN UNRELIABLE PARTNER IN SPACE COOPERATION. MINISTER EHMKE ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO PROVIDE ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE AEROSAT NEGOTIATIONS WHICH MIGHT HELP COUNTER THESE FRENCH CHARGES. EMBASSY PROVIDED SUBSTANCE OF REF TO EHMKE'S STAFF AND IS FOLLOWING UP WITH HIM TODAY. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THIS STATUS REPORT WILL BE VERY HELPFUL TO FRG. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT US "DOCUMENTED" AND "DEFINITIVE" POSITIONS MENTIONED PARAS 6 AND 7 OF OF REFCBE MADE AVAILABLE TO FRG AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, AND CERTAINLY SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE OF EUROPEAN

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OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /148 W
----- 097468

R 161608Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6290
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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TIMING ON SPACELAB CONSIDERATION.

4. WORKING LEVEL TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY OFFICIALS
REMAIN OPTIMISTIC ABOUT SPACELAB PROJECT. PHASE B
STUDIES BY MBB AND ERNO INDUSTRIAL TEAMS HAVE INDICATED
SPACELAB CAN BE COMPLETED WITHIN 308 MILLION ACCOUNTING
UNIT BUDGET AND ESRO DIRECTOR GENERAL HOCKER HAS SO
REPORTED. SWISS HAVE INDICATED THEY PLAN CONTRIBUTE
ONE PERCENT. FRG HOPES NEW ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CAN
SIGN SPACELAB ARRANGEMENT BEFORE JULY 31. IF
ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, FRG WOULD BE WILLING TO ASSUME
FRENCH SHARE OF SPACELAB. FRG STILL DESIRES FRENCH
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PARTICIPATION BUT CAN NOT AND WILL NOT INCREASE
ITS FIXED-SUM CONTRIBUTION TO L3S PROJECT. THIS
SUM, 40 PER YEAR, WAS TO BE TWICE FRENCH CONTRIBUTION
TO SPACELAB. ACCORDINGLY, FRG OFFICIALS DOUBT THAT
FRENCH WOULD GIVE UP THIS BONUS WHICH IS CONDITIONAL
ON FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN SPACELAB. FRENCH ARE SOME L5
PERCENT SHORT OF NEEDED FUNDS FOR L3S. ONE FRG
OFFICIAL SPECULATED THAT FRENCH MAY ACCELERATE THEIR
EFFORTS TO GET A FIRST STAGE FOR L3S FROM THE US TO
REDUCE OVERALL PROJECT COSTS.

5. TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY JULY L3 PRESS RELEASE ASSERTS THAT EVENTS AT ESC MEETING DID NOT SURPRISE FRG MINISTER EHMKE -- THE FRG HAD REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT SUCH A CONFERENCE COULD NOT BE SUCCESSFUL WITHOUT EXTENSIVE PREPARATIONS. PRESS RELEASE REITERATES FRG POSITION:

- A. TO PROVIDE ABOUT HALF THE COST OF SPACELAB
- B. TO MAKE A FIXED-SUM CONTRIBUTION TO FRENCH L3S
- C. TO PROVIDE A "CERTAIN" PERCENTAGE TO MAROTS, A PROJECT FAVORED BY UK.

EHMKE RECALLS UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF SPACELAB BY ESRO COUNCIL AND HOPES EUROPEAN PARTNERS CAN JOIN FRG IN POSITIVE DECISION ON SPACELAB DURING JULY 3L ESC MEETING.
HILLENBRAND

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